



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:** We are a small community hospital licensed for 86 beds. We usually are staffed with only one therapist per 12 hour shift. The department had someone on call at nights just in case the scheduled therapist called in sick or the workload increased and a second therapist was needed. However, the on call was taken away because of costs and it was not needed very often. We could go months without utilizing the on call person. (1) If someone calls in sick and we cannot cover the shift or maybe just hours with a therapist, what do we do? (2) Is it mandatory to have a Respiratory Therapist in house at all times?

**Response:** In response to your inquiry regarding workloads, please be advised that the RCB does not establish policies regarding appropriate workload assignments. Each organized health care system is responsible for establishing these guidelines within their respective systems.

Reference # 2001-C-23